Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting
July 8, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
Simsbury Town Hall – Main Meeting Room
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER – Madam Chair Masino called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Chair, Susan Masino; Vice Chair, Margery Winters; First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis; Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission Chair; Lori Coppinger; At-Large Open Space Committee Members: Tyler Archer Helen Peterson; Parks and Recreation Director, Tom Tyburski; and Eagle Scout, Madoc McGee.

II. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No public audience.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 6, 2026, Regular Meeting

MOTION: First Selectman Mackstutis made a motion, seconded by Conservation Chair Winters to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2026, Regular Meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously. (6-0-0)

IV. DISCUSSION ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT WORK

Eagle Scout Madoc McGee explained that his project's intent is to improve local trail access. Upon the Eagle Scouts Committee's approval he plans to begin work in mid-August at the trail head of the Blue Trail located between Massaco State Forest and Onion Mountain. He plans to improve parking by marking a two or three car lot. There will be a kiosk with maps and information. The entrance will be weeded, have a base layer of dirt, a layer of gravel, and will be sprayed to prevent future growth. The gate will be spray painted and given a new post. He hopes to complete the project by mid-September.

Chair Masino recommended instead of a kiosk having a post with a QR code that links to the proposed map and information.

V. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR SIMSBURY OPEN SPACE

Chair Masino stated that she has worked on the Executive Summary and at the end of the overview would like to add a list of National Designations with informational links.

Committee Member Archer recommended making a grid system of open space parcels.

First Selectman Mackstutis recommended referencing the Planning Commission by sanctioning or participating in the work.

VI. IVASIVES UPDATE

Conservation Commission Chair Winters stated there are several groups still brainstorming on how they will effectively handle invasives. She would like to make signs available to raise awareness.

Committee Member Archer recommended working with businesses and properties in own that have invasives to raise awareness. Parks and Recreation Director Tyburski stated Conservation Commission Chair Winters has given very well received talks and recommended her giving one to the Chamber of Commerce.

VII. ABORETUM UPDATE

Conservation Commission Chair Winters stated there was no update but will check in with Bruce Powell about the status of identification.

VIII. POTENTIAL DATE FOR PRESENTATION TO BOS

The Committee decided October 26th would be the BOS meeting to present at.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

X. EVENTS

Chair Masino stated the Simsbury Land Trust, the Grange, Real Artways, and the Library have partnered to show films at the Library on Thursdays. The Simsbury Land Trust has many upcoming hikes.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Madam Chair Masino made a motion, seconded by parks and Recreation Chair Coppinger, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. (6-0-0)

Madam Chair Masino adjourned the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk